

Appln. No.: 09/883,533
Amendment Dated February 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 29, 2005

MATP-604US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-12 are pending.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sato et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,751,687). This ground for rejection is respectfully traversed. In particular, Sato et al. do not disclose or suggest:

An audio/video platform (AVP) ... comprising

...an infrared transmitter for transmitting infrared control commands to the second video device...

...a control processor coupled to the digital video communications port and to the infrared transmitter for sending control commands to the first video device via the digital communications port and for sending control commands to the second video device via the infrared transmitter...

as required by claim 1.

Sato et al. disclose a network system in Figure 1 having video equipment 30, 40, and 50 connected through serial data bus 1. The network system also has video receivers 10 and 20 connected to bus 1. The video equipment and the video receivers are all controlled by commands in a network using the IEEE 1394 serial type bus (Col. 9, lines 55-57). As shown in Figs. 2 and 3, video receiver 10 includes an IR receiver 115 and video equipment 30 also includes an IR receiver 313. Paragraph 2 of the Office Action asserts that Sato et al. includes an infrared transmitter for transmitting infrared control commands to a second video device. Applicants respectfully disagree. As shown in Figs. 2 and 3 and disclosed in (Col. 10, lines 55-60 and Col. 11, lines 58-63), Sato et al. disclose that the video equipment and the video receivers include respective infrared light receivers to receive control information from a remote control device. This remote control device is separate (i.e. remote from) the devices being controlled and, so, can not be a part of a central controller or audio/video platform (AVP) as required by claim 1. Sato et al. are silent regarding any AVP that transfers commands from the AVP to various devices coupled to the AVP. Because Saito et al. do not disclose or suggest any AVP according to the subject invention, they can not disclose or suggest an AVP having an infrared transmitter for transmitting infrared control commands to a second video device, as required by Applicants claim 1. Indeed, Sato et al. disclose that the components are controlled without use of a central controller (Col. 2, lines 1-4). The teachings of Sato et al. are thus contrary to Applicants claim 1, which includes a control processor for sending control commands

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to first and second video devices via a digital communications port and an infrared transmitter, respectively. Thus, Sato et al. do not include all of the features of claim 1.

Because Sato et al. do not disclose or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sato et al. Because claims 2-5 include all of the limitations of claim 1 from which they depend, claims 2-5 are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sato et al.

Claims 6-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Humpleman et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,603,488). It is respectfully submitted that this ground for rejection is overcome for the reasons set forth below.

The rejection of claims 6-7 is respectfully traversed. Claims 6-7 includes all of the features of claim 1 from which they depend and are patentable over Sato et al. or Humpleman et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Humpleman et al. do not supply the deficiencies of Sato et al. because it does not disclose or suggest "an infrared transmitter for transmitting infrared control commands to the second video device" as required by claim 1.

The Humpleman et al. patent concerns a browser based command and control home network. Humpleman discloses a system for controlling other video devices by an internet based network through the use of a physical network media such as an IEEE 1394 serial bus and Ethernet (Col. 6, lines 46-48). Although Humpleman describes, in column 5, lines 54-59, that a data communication port can physically link the video devices in the home network, Humpleman et al. do not disclose or suggest that the command and control device (i.e. audio/visual platform) includes an infrared transmitter for transmitting commands to other video devices. Thus, the Humpleman et al. system is different from Applicants invention because the system according to Humpleman et al. may be incompatible with older video devices that do not have data communication ports such as the 1394 serial bus and Ethernet.

The cited art, taken singularly or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 1. Accordingly, claims 6-7 which include all of the limitations of claim 1 from which they depend are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Humpleman et al.

The rejection of claim 8 is respectfully traversed. Independent claim 8, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to claim 1. Claim 8 recites, among other features,

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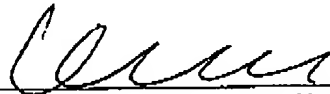
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a method for controlling a plurality of video devices from an audio/video platform, including the step of "transmitting infrared commands to the second group of the plurality of devices." As described above, neither Sato et al., nor Humpleman et al., either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest having an infrared transmitter for transmitting commands to other video devices. Thus, neither Sato et al. nor Humpleman et al. disclose all of the features of claim 8.

Because neither Sato et al. nor Humpleman et al. disclose all of the features of claim 8, claim 8 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Humpleman et al. Because claims 9-12 include all of the limitations of claim 8 from which they depend, claims 9-12 are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Humpleman et al.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdrawal the rejection of claims 1-12.

Respectfully submitted,


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